

Youth Leadership Academy

698 Concord Church Road

Pickens, SC 29671



South Carolina State Report Card

State and federal laws require public schools to release report cards to the public each year. This year, the report card has been updated to reflect changes in reporting directed by the SC Education Oversight Committee. Schools will not be rated for state accountability purposes until Fall 2017 when the state will transition to a single accountability system. The following reports student performance in school year 2014-15.

Grades:	6-8 Middle	Principal:	Patsy Wood Smith
Enrollment:	121 students	Superintendent:	Wayne Brazell, Ph.D.
School Phone:	864-898-4511	Board Chair:	Warren Engle
School Website:	http://www.ylaofsc.com/		



Profile of the SC Graduate

World Class Knowledge

- Rigorous standards in language arts and math for career and college readiness
- Multiple languages, science, technology, engineering, mathematics (STEM), arts and social sciences*

World Class Skills

- Creativity and innovation
- Critical thinking and problem solving
- Collaboration and teamwork
- Communication, information, media and technology
- Knowing how to learn

Life and Career Characteristics

- Integrity
- Self-direction
- Global perspective
- Perseverance
- Work ethic
- Interpersonal skills

WORLD CLASS SKILLS & LIFE AND CAREER CHARACTERISTICS

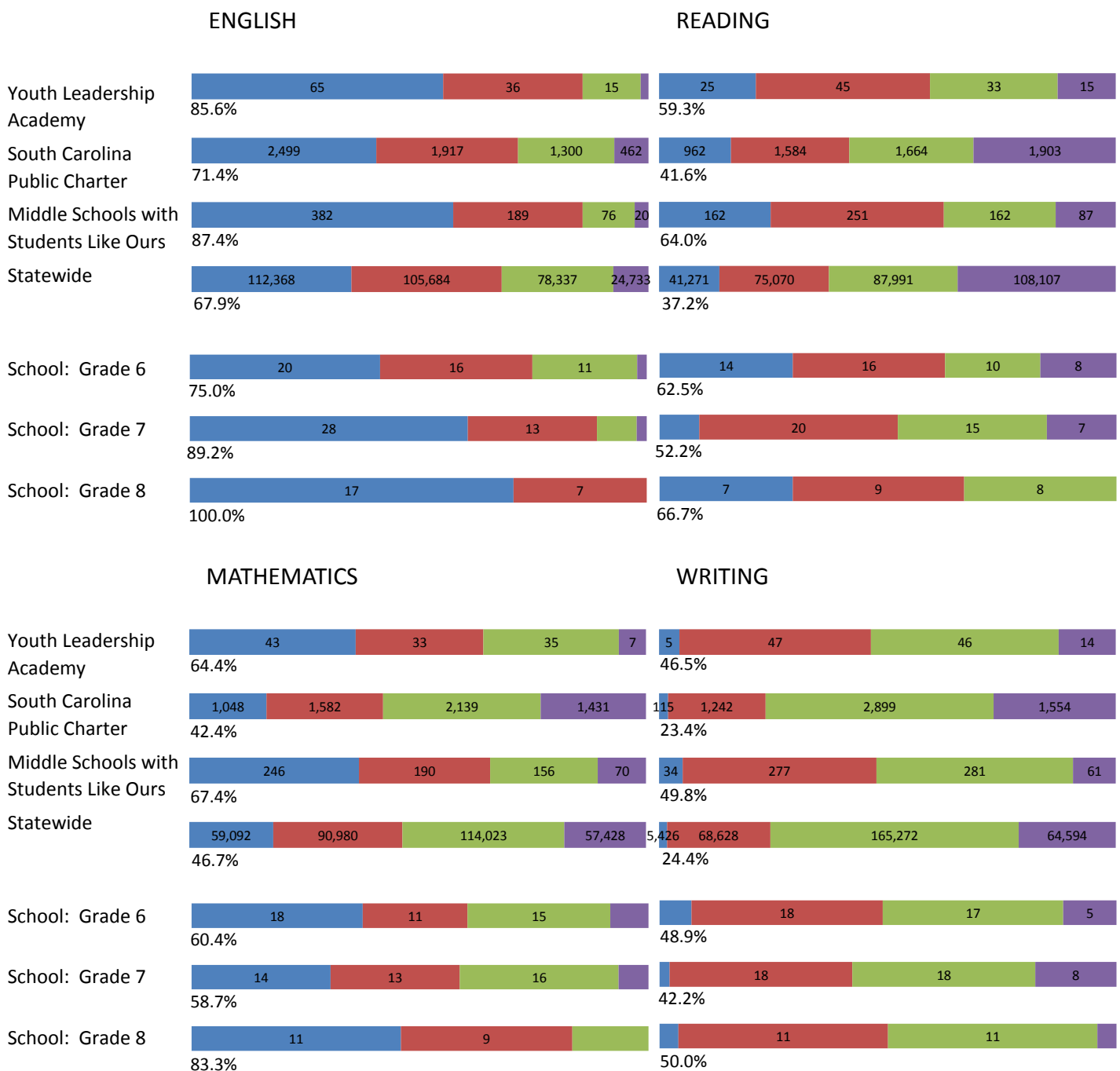
Our school is helping all students develop the world class skills and life and career characteristics of the Profile of the Graduate by ...

Youth Leadership Academy builds World Class skills and life and career characteristics daily in each and every student. SchoolDigger.com is a national, online reference for school rankings and test scores for over 120,000 elementary, middle, and high schools in the United States. Based on 2013-14 scores, YLA ranked sixth among the state's 257 middle schools. Test score results put YLA in first place among seventh graders in PASS Math, PASS Writing, and PASS Social Studies. Our Robotics Team earned "Best Environmental Entry" at the Invention Convention sponsored by AT&T and Michelin, displaying all of the skills identified as "world class" – an ultimate exercise in building life and career characteristics. Two of our students received highest overall awards in the South Carolina MESAS (Middle & Elementary School Academy of Science) Contest, and one received regional honors. We continued to focus on leadership through service, with students raising over \$2500 during our 12 Days of Giving Campaign. Funds were distributed to 15 charities, including giving the equivalent of one year's salary for an average citizen to the Congo Initiative, helping to give students a global perspective. Representatives from each charity attended a reception where students learned more about their needs and how they could continue to help. Students also raised over \$1,100 in a Run-a-Thon, with the funds going to the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation. We continued our partnership with the YAMs program (Young Appalachian Musicians), and students had the opportunity to learn to play a variety of stringed instruments and play in the school YAMS band. Our students also visited the Peace Center several times, as well as Clemson University's Brooks Center, for cultural exposure. Field trips that enhanced the classroom experience gave students unique opportunities to see and experience curriculum. Trips to Cowpens Battlefield, Duke Energy's Bad Creek Project, and even the local bowling alley allowed students to see real life application of academic standards. Students ended the year with job shadowing, Career Projects and presentations, with many 6th graders attending the American Dream Foundation's Career Fair. At Youth Leadership Academy, every decision made is based on what is best for our students. We will continue to achieve excellence in preparing our students for future success, working hand in hand with our families and community partners to build tomorrow's local, state, national and world leaders. Patsy Smith, Principal, Lori Durham, Chair

* 21st Century core courses in Social Sciences include History, Geography, Economics, Government and Civics.

KNOWLEDGE

The ACT Aspire assessment was given to students in grades 3-8 in Spring 2015. Students were assessed in the subject areas of Reading, English, Mathematics and Writing



Abbreviations for Missing Data

N/A-Not Applicable

N/AV-Not Available

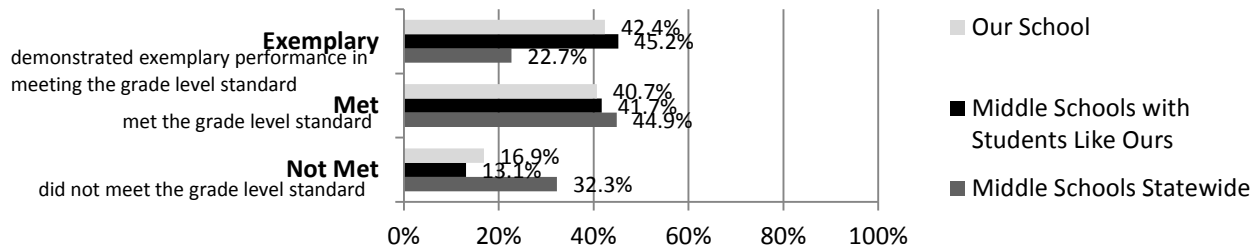
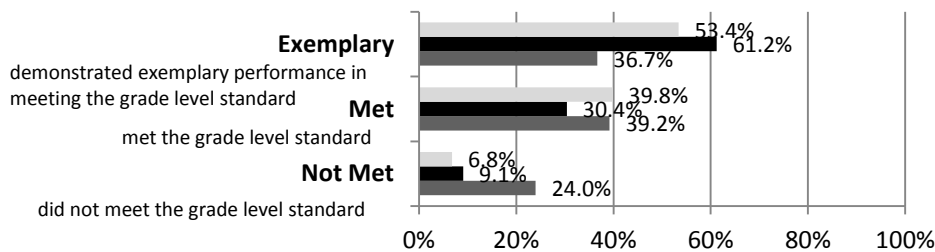
N/C-Not Collected

N/R-Not Reported

I/S-Insufficient Sample

KNOWLEDGE

The SC Palmetto Assessment of State Standards (SCPASS) was given to students in grades 4 - 8 in Spring 2015. Students were assessed in the subject areas of Science and Social Studies.

Science**Social Studies****Science SCPASS**

Our School: Percent Met and Above for each grade level		
6th grade	7th grade	8th grade
72.9	89.1	91.7

Social Studies SCPASS

Our School: Percent Met and Above for each grade level		
6th grade	7th grade	8th grade
89.6	95.7	95.8

Note: Results include SC-Alt assessment results.

Exemplary

"Exemplary": student demonstrated exemplary performance in meeting the grade level standard.

Met

"Met": student met the grade level standard.

Not Met

"Not Met": student did not meet the grade level standard.

End of Course Tests

Percent of tests with scores of 70 or above on:	Our School	Middle Schools with Students Like Ours
Algebra 1/Math for the Technologies 2	96.0	99.6
English 1	100	98.9
Biology 1	N/A	N/A
US History and the Constitution	N/A	N/A
All Subjects	97.6	99.4

Middle Schools with Students Like Ours are middle schools with poverty indices of no more than 5% above or below the index for the school.

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OPPORTUNITIES

	Our School	Change from Last Year	Middle Schools with students like ours
Students (n = 121)			
Percent of students participating in Medicaid, SNAP, or TANF; homeless, foster, or migrant students (poverty index)	29.4	Up from 28.7%	N/A
Percent of students (grade 7 & 8) enrolled in HS credit courses	34.7	Down from 47.8%	35.5
Attendance Rate	97.8	Down from 99.9%	96.3
With disabilities	6.7	Up from 0.0%	6.7
Out of school suspensions or expulsions for violent and/or criminal offenses	0.8	Up from 0.0%	0.5
Percentage of students served by gifted and talented programs	47.9	Down from 52.1%	39.7
Percentage of students retained	0.0	No change	0.2
Annual dropout rate	0.0	No change	0.0
Teachers (n = 10)			
Percentage of teachers with advanced degrees	50.0	Down from 66.7%	59.4
Percentage of teachers on continuing contract	80.0	Up from 50.0%	79.9
Teachers returning from previous year	N/A	N/A	89.2
Teacher attendance rate	96.4	Down from 99.3%	95.6
Average teacher salary*	\$38,675	Down 2.3%	\$48,051
Professional development days / teacher	8.4 days	Down from 11.1 days	8.9 days
Percentage of teacher vacancies for more than 9 weeks	0.0	N/A	0.6
School			
Principal's years at school	3.0	Up from 2.0	2.5
Student-teacher ratio in core subjects	30.0 to 1	Up from 23.5 to 1	24.8 to 1
Prime instructional time	93.9	Down from 99.2%	90.7
Opportunities in the arts	Fair	Down from Good	Excellent
Opportunities in foreign languages	Poor	N/A	Poor
AdvancEd (SACS) accreditation	No	No change	Yes
Parents attending conferences	100.0	No change	100.0
Character development program	Good	No change	Excellent
Avg. age of books / electronic media in the school library	N/A	N/A	11.7
Number of resources available per student in the school library media center	N/A	N/A	17.3
Bandwidth capacity per student	<25 Mbps	N/C	N/A
Percent of classrooms with wireless access	76-100%	N/C	N/A
District-issued learning devices per student	1.7	N/C	2.2
District-issued technology devices per teacher	2.4	N/C	1.9
Percentage of classes not taught by highly qualified teachers	19.2	Down from 28.6%	1.8
Dollars spent per pupil**	\$6,901	Down 64.0%	\$7,114
Percent of expenditures for instruction**	63.4	Up from 13.7%	63.6
Percent of expenditures for teachers' salaries**	64.1	Up from 32.9%	65.2

* Includes current year teachers contracted for 190 days or more.

** Prior year audited financial data are reported.

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OPPORTUNITIES**Evaluations by Teachers, Students, and Parents****Evaluations by Teachers, Students, and Parents**

	Teachers	Students*	Parents*
Number of surveys returned	10	24	19
Percent satisfied with learning environment	100.0	95.9	89.5
Percent satisfied with social and physical environment	100.0	83.3	94.8
Percent satisfied with school-home relations	100.0	91.7	94.5

* Only students at the highest middle school grade and their parents were included.

State Ratings History of School

Year	Absolute Rating	Growth Rating
2014	Excellent	Excellent
2013	Excellent	At-Risk
2012	N/A	N/A

Based on state law, schools will not be rated for state accountability purposes until Fall 2017.

Additional Resources

SC State Content Standards
[Family-Friendly Guides to the SC Content Standards](#)
[2014-15 Accountability Manual](#)
[Report Card Data Files](#)
[ESEA Data Files](#)

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